

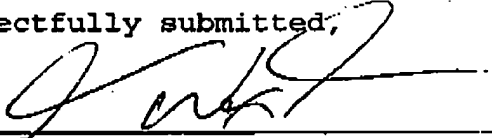
REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 7, 2003. Claims 1-11 and 13-14 remain pending in this application. Claims 1 and 13 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-11 and 13-14 are allowed. Applicant has amended the specification in response to the Office Action's objections and consequently believes that the application is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the currently-pending claims are clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied references. Accordingly, entry of this amendment, reconsideration of the rejections of the claims over the references cited, and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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July 2, 2004